

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

COMMEMORATING

The 150th anniversary of St. Andrew's Congregation

The 100th anniversary of present St. Andrew's Church Building

The 10th anniversary of St. Andrew's Church Hall (Dec. 11, 1962)



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEMMINGFORD, QUEBEC

OCTOBER 1, 1972

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPLETE LIST OF THE ELDERS OF THIS CONGREGATION:

NAME ----	WHEN INSTALLED -----	CEASED TO ACT -----	DIED ----
ALEX WALKER	DATE UNKNOWN		MAR. 5TH, 1863
JOHN REAY	" "		APR. 20TH, 1856
JOSEPH MERLIN	" "		FEB. 26TH, 1859
JOSHUA ODELL	" "		OCT. 23RD, 1869
F.S. VERITY, M.D.	1856		OCT. 15TH, 1862
GEORGE HAMILTON	"		JAN. 31ST, 1881 IN MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT MILLER	"	REMOVED TO MONTREAL	
JOHN KYLE	"		AUG. 15TH, 1865
JOSEPH HILNE	JUNE 22ND, 1860		OCT. 25TH, 1870
DONALD MCFEE (MAJOR)"	" "		DEC. 14TH, 1880
HUGH MERLIN	" "		APR. 21ST, 1902
THOMAS KYLE, JR.	" "	1878	MAR. 18TH, 1889
WILLIAM BARR, SR.	MAR. 9TH, 1879		SEPT. 2ND, 1887
JOHN MCNAUGHTON	" "		JAN. 6TH, 1895 IN DENVER
HENRY O'NEIL	" "	MOVED TO MONTREAL JANUARY 1881	
ARCHIBALD CLELAND	JAN. 9TH, 1887		DATE UNKNOWN
G.J. MCKAY	" "		" "
DONALD MCFEE (CAPT.)	MAY 5TH, 1889		" "
THOMAS MERLIN	" "		" "
GEO. S. MCCREA	FEB. 1ST, 1903	MOVED WEST JANUARY 1910	
ALFREDO KENNY	FEB, 1ST, 1903		" "

ROBERT ELLIOTT, M.D.	JAN. 18TH, 1911	MOVED AWAY 1912	
P.H.M. SOMERVILLE	JUNE 28TH, 1912		DATE UNKNOWN
W.C. ROBSON	FEB. 25TH, 1916		JAN. 8TH, 1921
W.J. ROBSON	WHEN THE SEPARATE SESSIONS OF ST. ANDREW'S AND KNOX CHURCHES UNITED AS ONE SESSION		JULY 17TH, 1919
W. WALTER BARR	"		
JOHN G. BARR	"		JAN. 5TH, 1921
W.H. STEWART	"		
F.T. CLAYLAND	JAN. 18TH, 1927		JAN. 12TH, 1961
ANDREW CASCAOEN	" "		MAY 24TH, 1940
WILLIAM A. ORR	" "		MAR. 2ND, 1932
MALCOLM M. BROWN	" "		
MORRISON MCCREA	AUG. 28TH, 1932		OCT. 24TH, 1939
EMMETT NAPPER	OCT. 16TH, 1949		
JOHN CLELLAND	" "		NOV. 7TH, 1961
ANGUS ORR	" "		DEC. 27TH, 1971
GEORGE MCKAY	APR. 20TH, 1952		MAR. 8TH, 1970
SAMUEL MCVEY	" "	MOVED AWAY 1957	
JAMES KYLE	SEPT. 30TH, 1956		JAN. 30TH, 1962
A.L. RUTHERFORD	" "		
GEORGE COUTTS	" "		DEC. 12TH, 1957
RUSSEL PAUL	MAY 28TH, 1966		
KENNETH BACHELDER	" "		

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"HISTORY OF HEMMINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH"

The first minister of the congregation was the Rev. John Merlin, of Maghera, County Derry, Ireland, who received his ministerial education in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In his diary is this note in his handwriting, dated Sept. 1st, 1856 "This day I have completed my 74th year and the 33rd of my ministry in Hemmingford." This note indicates that he reckoned his ministry here to date from Sept. 1st, 1823. Mrs. Merlin and their three children followed Mr. Merlin upon receipt of a letter from him, which had been long delayed in the mails. They made their home for the first two years in a cabin, on what is now Wm. McKay's land, on the south side of the brook crossing the road near Duquette's and on the west side of the road. In the third year they moved to what is now the Joseph Merlin farm and lived on the knoll near the road, south of the house now occupied by Joseph Merlin's grandson. This house was begun in 1837, and completed in 1838. In this home the Rev. Mr. Merlin died in 1866, aged 85, his wife having predeceased him by two years.

In addition to his duties as a minister, Mr. Merlin taught school for some years, at first in a school-room at Scriver's Corners (now Hemmingford Village) on the site now occupied by O. Lacasse's Store, etc. In 1828 his neighbours raised a school near his dwelling, in front of what is now Hiram Humphrey's home. Here he taught, assisted by his wife, who taught in his absence. In later years, a part of his duty was also to examine candidates and certify them for license as teachers.

His regular preaching places were the school at Scriver's Corners, at Sherrington, a school nine miles north from Scriver's and in Black's School twenty miles west of Scriver's. Monthly service was given at Beschridge, to which place he floated down Norton Creek in a canoe, water permitting.

Communion seasons were regularly held in the schoolhouse at Scriver's until 1842 when a stone church was built a little north of the present village and on the east side of the street. The church was 37 X 52 with gable facing west, entered by a double door in centre of front. Within the entrance was a lobby with minister's room to the right, and gallery stairs to left. The auditorium had a row of seats on each side and a double row in the middle. A door to each of the two aisles opened from the lobby. The pulpit was high with a stairway on each side. A space in front of the pulpit served for the communion tables, the communicants being seated at the tables during the serving of the elements.

In the early years of his ministry, Mr. Merlin was connected with "The Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, distinguished by the name of Seceders and with The United Associate Synod of Scotland" which did nothing for him in the way of grants. On the socialization of his brethren in 1841, Mr. Merlin connected with the church of Scotland and became entitled to a grant from the clergy reserves. On retiring from the ministry he received the regular allowance of one hundred pounds per year during life.

On July 4th, 1853, the congregation of Sherrington and Hemmingford made formal application, were received into the Presbytery of Montreal and Mr. Alex C. Stewart, a licentiate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church was appointed as supply. Mr. Stewart was ordained and inducted into the charge Nov. 8th, 1853, and resigned Jan. 17th, 1855.

On Sept. 8th, 1858, the Rev. James Patterson, now D.D., was inducted and ministered here till Sept, 1st, 1882. Dr. Patterson lived for a time with Major Donald McFee and with Alex. McClymont till the manse (now the property of Mr. Thomas Merlin) was completed, into which he moved in 1860. His services were at first given to Hemmingford and for a time to Sherrington. But during his pastorate Knox Church became a part of the congregation and his first meeting of session there was held on Sept. 15th, 1876. The first communion roll recorded by Dr. Patterson in 1858 contains 74 names. The first Sabbath School in the congregation was opened by him on the First Sabbath of December, 1858 and two dollars were voted from the session fund for Sabbath School purposes.

The present St. Andrew's Church was dedicated on Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 1872. It is seated for 350 persons and cost when completed \$6,000.00. The morning service on that day was conducted by Rev. Dr. Patterson, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Buckley of Plattsburg, N.Y., who preached from 11 Chron. 6:18. In the evening of the same day, Dr. Patterson was assisted by the Rev. Gavin Lang of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, moderator of Presbytery, who gave the dedicatory address, by the Rev. W. M. Black, of St. Mark's, Montreal, and by the Rev. President Beecham of Vermont University who preached from the text: "Provide things honest (honorable) in the sight of all men." The enterprise was especially indebted to the late Julius Scriver, M.P., to the much loved minister, to Mr. S. Scriver, Mrs. Patterson and the many who labored with them.

The Rev. Wm. Robertson, the next minister, served from Dec. 29th, 1884 till his death which took place Jan. 4th, 1894.

The Rev. Roderick McKay, M.A., B.D., served from April 11th, 1895, till Dec. 12th, 1899.

The Rev. A. Lee, B.A., served from June 29th, 1900 till Dec. 2nd, 1906. During Mr. Lee's ministry the present manse was bought from John F. Scriver on April 2nd, 1901 for \$1800.00 and the old manse property was sold to Thomas Merlin for \$1200.00. St. Andrew's W.M.S. was organized in Mr. Lee's time.

The Rev. C. Haughton, B.A. was minister from April 15th, 1907 till Nov. 13th, 1910.

He was succeeded by the Rev. S. Gorley Brown, who was ordained and inducted April 24th, 1911 and remained till Nov. 24th, 1912.

The Rev. D. M. Reid served from May 10th, 1913 till his death on Nov. 1st, 1915.

During the vacancy the sessions of St. Andrew's and Knox churches were united on Feb. 25th, 1916. They had previously worked as separate sessions.

The next pastorate was that of Rev. F. W. Murray which began March 27th, 1916.

An amalgamation took place between the local Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, dating from June 1st, 1918.

On August 17th, 1922, at a meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Miss Bessie M. Cairns was designated as mission teacher to Kong Moon, South China.

The congregation at this time contains 85 Presbyterian families and 34 families of Methodists. The Presbyterian communion roll contains 186 names. The Methodist roll by the amalgamation terms, is kept separately.

There has been but brief reference to the faithful work of the various ministers, but the present minister hears many kindly words of those who preceded him and of their faithful labors.

To mark the entrance of the congregation upon the 100th year of its history, special services were held in St. Andrew's Church Oct. 1st, 1922, morning and evening, Knox Church worshipping with St. Andrew's for the day. The special preacher for the day was Rev. R. W. Dickie, D.D. of Knox Crescent Church, Montreal, who conveyed the greetings of the Presbytery and whose sermons in the morning from Eph. 2: 19-22, and in the evening from 1 Thess. 5: 16, were most moving and powerful. At the morning service the minister was assisted by the Rev. Jas. Patterson, D.D., in the administration both of the sacrament of baptism, and of the Lord's Supper. The infant baptized was Thomas Robson Cleland, all of whose grandparents and whose parents were married by the Rev. Dr. Patterson, and whose father, T. E. Cleland, was baptized by him. The day was warm and beautiful and the church was full. In the evening Dr. Patterson again took a full part in the services, especially leading in a prayer that united the hearts of the people with him in deep emotion at the throne of grace.

On Thursday evening, Oct. 5th, the ladies of the congregation held a centennial tea-meeting in the town hall, which was crowded. After the repast a civic welcome was extended to the gathering by Mayors R. W. Blair of the village, and R. T. Brownlee of the Township. Mr. Joseph Merlin gave most interesting reminiscences of his grandfather, the first minister. Mr. Robert Ellerton, Town Clerk, gave an account of the educational and municipal development, and an account of the Administration of Justice in the community. Rev. T. S. St. Aubin conveyed the greetings of the Sister Congregation of Ruaseltown. The Rev. Geo. F. Dewey, Asst. Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Westmount, brought the greetings of its minister, the Rev. W. J. Clark, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly. The Rev. S. Gorley Brown of St. Luke's, Montreal, and formerly minister here conveyed the greetings of his people. The Rev. F. W. Murray read a history of the congregation, also announcing the receipt of greetings from the session of the American Church, Montreal, through Mr. Chas.

Scriver, and of letters bearing kindly words from Mrs. A. I. Reid, widow of a former minister, and the Rev. C. Haughton and Rev. Roderick McKay, former ministers and from Rev. H. S. Lee, son of a former minister. The evening closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The foregoing is the history of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for its first hundred years, 1822-1922, and is taken from a history of the church written by Rev. F. W. Murray in 1922.

Rev. Murray continued to serve as minister until his death in 1923. In April of that year, Rev. C. C. Salisbury took over the ministry of our church and remained in that position until the vote for church union in 1925. On June 10th, 1925, the vote on church union went in favour of inauguration to form the United Church of Canada.

In Hemmingford, 36 members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church withheld from the inauguration and went on to form the nucleus of what is today's Presbyterian Church in Hemmingford. These people were left with no place of worship and until they purchased the old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1929 from the United Church of Canada for the sum of \$3,000.00. Arrangements were made for temporary use of the building.

Different ministers and lay preachers who have served St. Andrew's from 1925 to the present time are as follows: Rev. J. J. McCaskill, Rev. Allan S. Reid, Rev. Herbert P. Maitland, Rev. H. G. Munro, Rev. J. W. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Castleman, Student, Mr. Douglas Wilson, Student, Mr. Richardson, Lay Preacher, Rev. Robt. McLean, Rev. J. M. Fletcher, Rev. McBride, Mr. J. G. Troyer, Student, Mr. J. McFarlane, Lay Preacher, Mr. Thompson, Student, Mr. Owen Channon, Student, Mr. John Simms, Student, Mr. Belson, Lay Preacher, and Mr. Chas. F. Coombs.

At present our pulpit is unoccupied, due to Mr. Coombs accepting a call to a charge in the Gaspé area on September 1st of this year. After fifteen years of faithful and dedicated service from Mr. Coombs, we are optimistic about finding a suitable successor to him. During the last 46 years, it is possible that there have been other occasional services by individuals not mentioned here on account of their names not appearing in the church records.

During this same period of time, the following ministers have served this congregation as interim moderators as determined from the records; Dr. Allan S. Reid, Rev. Gerald Doran, Rev. W. K. Pottinger, Rev. A. Ross MacKay.

A list of the members of the church session since the founding of the congregation appears on the fly leaf inside the front cover of this booklet. The senior member presently serving the session board is Mr. Malcolm M. Brown who has faithfully served this board for the past 45 years.

Session clarks who have served St. Andrew's since 1925 are as follows: T. F. Clayland, 1925-1952, Mr. George A. McKay, 1952-1967, Mr. Russel Paul, 1967-present.

Among the members of the congregation who have served as organist during this period of time are the following: Mrs. W. A. Orr, Mrs. Wm. McNaughton, Mrs. Cascaden, Mrs. Smirle, Mrs. Chas. McKay, Mr. McVey, Mr. Banton and our present organist, Mrs. Peggy Kyle.

During this period Sunday School classes for the families of this congregation were, at one time, held on Sunday afternoons in the Merlin School House near Barrington and were well attended by adults and children alike. These classes were later held in the church during regular church service. In time these classes outgrew the space available in the church, and in 1962, our church hall was built and dedicated for this purpose and also to have a place for the young people to meet.

1972 is the year we choose to celebrate these three important anniversaries, 150 years since the formation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Hemmingford, 100 years since the erection of the present church building and the 10th birthday of our church hall.

Services commemorating these anniversaries will be held in the church, Sunday, October 1st, 1972, at 3:00 P.M. when Rev. R. J. Berlis, minister for St. Andrew's and St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Montreal will be guest speaker.

A cordial invitation is extended for all to attend.

We regret very much errors or omissions we may have inadvertently made in the preparation of this brochure.

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LADIES GUILD

On March 8th, 1961, the ladies guild was formed. Its aim was to raise funds for a church hall for Sunday School and young people's activities. Nineteen ladies joined at this meeting and by the end of '61 there was a membership of twenty-eight. Membership fee was \$1.00 per year and a 10 cent collection was taken at each meeting, this was increased to 25 cents later and finally discontinued.

Money was raised by catering to weddings, putting on afternoon teas, bake sales, suppers and card parties. Two variety shows were organized and a booth was rented at Havelock Fair where Bazaar articles were sold. Members also had home projects and donated the proceeds to the hall fund. The hall was started in 1962 and members painted walls and cupboards, bought dishes and cutlery, etc., and outfitted the kitchen.

The hall debt was paid off in 1966, and since then the guild has continued to assist the church and Sunday School. Donations have also been sent to charitable organizations and missions.

Members have served on the board of managers and as Sunday School teachers. Present membership is fourteen.